

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 291600Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2956

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE

SUBJECT: GDR RESPONSE TO RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS.

REF: BERLIN 5137

1. IN THE MOUNTING CONTROVERSY OVER THE SHOOTING OF AN FRG  
CITIZEN BY GDR BORDERTROOPS NEAR GADEBUSCH ON JULY 24, THE  
GDR HAS ACCUSED THE FRG OF NOT DOING ENOUGH TO PREVENT  
" PROVOCATIVE VIOLATIONS" OF THE GDR BORDER AND HAS LAUNCHED  
A PUBLIC TRIAL AGAINST A SECOND FRG CITIZEN ARRESTED ON FEBRUARY  
8, 1976, AND CHARGED WITH INJURING TWO GDR BORDER GUARDS  
DURING AN ILLEGAL EXFILTRATION ATTEMPT.

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2. ACCORDING TO ADN REPORTS, GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KURT NIER ON JULY 25 REJECTED PROTESTS BY FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GUENTER GAUS IN EAST BERLIN AGAINST THE SHOOTING OF FRG CITIZEN WILLI BUBBERS. HE REPORTEDLY PROTESTED TO GAUS ABOUT THE " INCREASING PROVOCATORY VIOLATIONS OF THE STATE BOUNDARY OF THE GDR FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE FRG" AND REMINDED GAUS OF THE FRG'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT ATTACKS AND MAINTAIN " ORDER AND SECURITY" ON THE GDR-FRG BORDER. HE WARNED THAT THE FRG WOULD CARRY FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESULTS OF SUCH BORDER TRANSGRESSIONS.

3. A JULY 27 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND( ND) EDITORIAL DEALING WITH THE BUBBERS CASE ECHOED NIER'S ACCUSATIONS AND NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE INVIOABILITY OF BOUNDARIES, AS PROVIDED IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, WAS PRECONDITION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE FRG. BOTH THE EDITORIAL AND A SHORT ARTICLE ON THE BUBBERS ARREST IN THE JULY 26 ND FAIL TO MENTION THAT BUBBERS WAS SHOT BY GDR GUARDS BEFORE HIS CAPTURE.

4. IN THE WAKE OF THESE LATEST BORDER INCIDENTS, THE GDR ON JULY 27 LAUNCHED A TRIAL IN MAGDEBURG OF GUENTER GAIDECKA, AN FRG CITIZEN ARRESTED ON FEBRUARY 8, 1976, AT THE MARIENBORN CROSSING POINT BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRG AND ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER IN ALLEGEDLY HAVING SHOT AND INJURED TWO GDR BORDER GUARDS WHEN HIS ATTEMPT TO EXFILTRATE HIS EAST GERMAN NIECE WAS UNCOVERED. THE MAGDEBURG TRIAL WAS ANNOUNCED ON SHORT NOTICE AND APPEARS INTENDED BY THE GDR TO RECEIVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY THROUGH THE ATTENDANCE OF FRG JOURNALISTS, THE FIRST TIME WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO COVER DISTRICT COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE GDR.

5. COMMENT: THE LATEST CONTROVERSY REGARDING THE ACTIONS OF GDR BORDER GUARDS COMES AMID UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT GDR BORDER SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED SINCE THE MAY 1 SHOOTING OF FRG CITIZEN MICHAEL GARTENSCHLAEGER, WHO HAD GAINED PUBLICITY IN THE GDR FOR SUCCESSFULLY DISMANTLING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A GDR SELF-FIRING DEVICE ON THE GDR BORDER. THE GDR'S PLOY OF COUNTERING CRITICISM OF ITS ACTIONS WITH A PUBLIC TRIAL INTENDED TO POINT UP THE NECESSITY OF TIGHT BORDER SECURITY IS REMINISCENT OF ITS DECISION TO STAGE THE RAINER SCHUBERT TRIAL( REFTEL) AT THE TIME OF THE FORCED ADOPTION CONTROVERSY IN JANUARY 1976. END COMMENT.  
COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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